

The invention claimed is:

Claims 1- 17 (canceled)

Claim 18 (currently amended): A rotary cutting apparatus comprising

a plurality of blades,

each blade fixed to the end of a drive shaft in substantially perpendicular orientation to the shaft,

each shaft projecting downward from a power means at an angle tilted longitudinally between 1 and 90 degrees from vertical,

a grass guide,

a chassis, and

a means for effecting movement of the apparatus over a cutting surface,

said grass guide being a straight, rigid structure mounted forward and substantially parallel to said drive shafts,

the bottom-most portion of said grass guide being in a mounting position just above and behind the lower ends of said plurality of blades such that said plurality of blades will only cut grass when said blades are in the lower portions of their planes of rotation, reducing each blade's cutting area and therefore reducing the power required to cut said grass,

said grass guide in said mounting position also forcing said grass in the cutting path of said plurality of blades to bend such that uncut grass in said cutting path is positioned in approximately perpendicular orientation to each blade's plane of rotation and be constrained such that movement of said uncut grass is restricted as it is cut by said plurality of blades.

Claim 19 (canceled)

Claim 20 (currently amended): The rotary cutting apparatus of claim 18, wherein said angle is ~~adjustably~~ selected from the group consisting of some or all degrees between 1 and 90 degrees from vertical without tilting the chassis around the wheel axles.

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Claim 21 (previously presented): The rotary cutting apparatus of claim 18, wherein said angle is fixed at a single degree between 1 and 90 from vertical.

Claim 22 (currently amended): The rotary cutting apparatus of claim 18, wherein said means for effecting movement of the apparatus over a cutting surface comprises

a handle to facilitate manual propulsion of the apparatus over the cutting surface and

a plurality of wheels fixed to the chassis by way of wheel axles.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The rotary cutting apparatus of claim 18, wherein said power means comprises a single electric motor.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The rotary cutting apparatus of claim 18, wherein said power means comprises a plurality of small electric motors.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The rotary cutting apparatus of claim 18, wherein said power means consists of an internal combustion engine.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The rotary cutting apparatus of claim 18, wherein said power means consists of a hybrid power source comprising

an internal combustion engine and

one or more electric motors.

Claim 27 (currently amended): The rotary cutting apparatus of claim 23, wherein said motor ~~or motors~~ is powered by a battery or batteries.

Claim 28 (currently amended): The rotary cutting apparatus of claim 24, wherein said ~~motor or~~ motors is are powered by a battery or batteries.

Claim 29 (currently amended): The rotary cutting apparatus of claim 23, wherein said motor ~~or motors~~ is powered by

a combination of a battery or batteries and

a solar cell.

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Claim 30 (currently amended): The rotary cutting apparatus of claim 24, wherein said ~~motor or~~ motors ~~is~~ are powered by

a combination of a battery or batteries and

a solar cell.

Claim 31 (previously presented): The rotary cutting apparatus of claim 23, wherein said motor ~~or~~ ~~motors~~ is powered by a fuel cell.

Claim 32 (currently amended): The rotary cutting apparatus of claim 24, wherein said ~~motor or~~ motors ~~is~~ are powered by a fuel cell.

Claim 33 (previously presented): The rotary cutting apparatus of claim 18, wherein said cutting blades are replaceable.

Claim 34 (previously presented): The rotary cutting apparatus of claim 18, wherein said power means is replaceable.

Claim 35 (previously presented): The rotary cutting apparatus of claim 18, wherein said means for effecting movement of the apparatus over a cutting surface is self-guiding.

Claim 36 (previously presented): The rotary cutting apparatus of Claim 18, wherein the height of said cutting blades relative to the cutting surface is adjustable.